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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re application of
Takashi NISHIHARA et al.

: Confirmation No. 4926

Serial No. 10/787,301

: Docket No. 2004_0297A

Filed February 27, 2004

: Group Art Unit 2655

INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM
AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING
THE SAME

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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication (*for U.S. National applications filed after June 30, 2003 and International applications that have entered U.S. National Stage after June 30, 2003*),
- each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____; and/or
- each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No. _____.

1a. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

- a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
 - a. a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

5. A European Search Report citing one or more of the references is enclosed. The European Search Report included herewith includes the statement that "no claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European Search Report has been drawn up for the first ten claims." However, the European Patent Office has confirmed to the Applicants that the above sentence in the European Search Report is based on an internal mistake within the EPO, all claim fees have been paid, and the search report has been drawn up for all claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Takashi NISHIHARA et al.

By



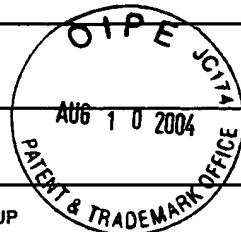
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August 10, 2004

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: August 10, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2004_0297ASERIAL NO.
10/787,301APPLICANT
Takashi NISHIHARA et al.FILING DATE
February 27, 2004GROUP
2655

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AB	1 172 811	1-16-02	Europe			X
	AC	1 187 119	3-13-02	Europe			X
	AD	0 217 293	4-8-87	Europe			X
	AE	8-321041	12-3-96	Japan			abstract
	AF	0 184 452	6-11-86	Europe			X
	AG	2004/025640	3-25-04	WO			abstract
	AH	1 324 326	7-2-03	Europe			X
	AI	1 351 229	10-8-03	Europe			X

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AJ	M. Horie et al., "Material Characterization and Application of Eutectic SbTe Based Phase-Change Optical Recording Media" Proceedings of the SPIE, SPIE, Bellingham, VA, US, vol. 4342, April 2001 (04-2001), pages 76-87
	AK	T. AKIYAMA et al., "Rewritable Dual-Layer Phase-Change Optical Disk Utilizing a Blue-Violet Laser", Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, Publication Office Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, Tokyo, JP, vol. 40, no. 3B, 2001, pages 1598-1603
	AL	R. KOJIMA et al., "Acceleration of Crystallization Speed by Sn Addition to Ge-Sb-Te Phase-Change Recording Material" JPN, J. Appl. Phys. 1, Regul. Pap. Short Notes Rev. Pap. (Japan), Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, Part 1 (Regular Papers, Short Notes & Review Papers), Oct. 2001, Japan Soc. Appl. Phys., Japan, vol. 40, no. 10, October 2001 (10-2001), pages 5930-5937
	AM	K. NARUMI et al., "Rewritable Dual-Layer Phase-Change Optical Disk with a Balanced Transmittance Structure" Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, Publication Office Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, Tokyo, JP, vol. 41, no. 5A, Part 1, May 2002 (05-2002), pages 2925-2930
	AN	K. YUSU et al., "Advanced Phase Change Medium of over 30GB Capacity for Blue Laser and High-NA Objective Lens", Joint International Symposium on Optical Memory and Optical Data Storage 2002, Technical Digest, Waikoloa, HI, USA, July 7-11 2002, July 7, 2002 (07-07-2002), pages 413-415

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED